

Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council

March 2, 2006 1:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.

**La Quinta Inn – Phoenix North, Vista Room
2510 West Greenway Road, Phoenix**

MEETING NOTES

Larry Riley called the Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A brief welcome statement was made by Director Duane Shroufe (Co-chair) and Director Don Butler (Co-chair), who noted there is much work to be done. Larry Riley was asked to lead this Council meeting and Tom McMahon will be facilitating. Mr. Riley asked if there were any immediate issues and none were presented.

Bill Werner motioned and Patti Fenner seconded the acceptance of the meeting notes from the January 24th AISAC meeting. **Motion approved** by Council.

Review of Charge

Larry Riley reiterated the Council's charge for Invasive Species. We needed to focus on the State Agency self-assessments and make any necessary changes and advise the Council. We will also need to make recommendation for our "Invasive Species" definition in quick time.

Bill Werner asked whether the Working Groups should have to post notices and draft meeting notes on the website. Council reached verbal agreement that after adoption of meeting notes, they can be posted. We will distribute drafts of meeting notes via email to council members for discussion/acceptance at following Council meeting and then place these accepted meeting notes on the website.

Open Meeting Law Discussion

Steven Zraick from the Arizona Attorneys Generals Office was introduced and began a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Zraick stated that this Council and our Working Groups are not subject to the Open Meeting Law because it was not created thru statutes (created by Executive Order from the Governor). To view handbook, visit www.azag.gov, Chapter 7, "Sunshine Law", 7.2.2 pages 7-1.

The Council reviewed definition of "meeting" and definition of a quorum (50%=1), which discusses, proposes, or takes legal action. Question asked: "What if it is a social event or seminar?" It is best to post this event at least 24 hrs in advance. We must identify time, place, and purpose and no Council action may take place. Mr. Zraick then talked about meeting agendas. They must contain what is to be discussed, considered, decided at the meeting and made available to the public prior to the meeting. If it is not on the agenda, it cannot be discussed. Calls to the public are optional and the public body's response is limited. Executive Sessions can occur, but members must first vote on this. Chair must then ask non-members to leave. This Executive Session is confidential and is for discussion only. No action, voting, or straw polls can occur.

Mr. Zraick further discussed that minutes should be available 3 working days after meeting, while any Executive Sessions remain confidential. Sanctions & civil penalties for not adhering to the Open Meeting Law were discussed. Meeting notices must be posted at the actual meeting place and at the

Capital. Bill Werner asked a question about posting at public places such as La Quinta Inn. Mr. Zraik was going to check into this and get back to Council. Mr. Zraik was also going to check to see if we do post at the Capital as well. Mr. Shroufe suggests we go ahead and post the agendas (website and physical location). Mr. Riley responded that we would do our best to get them posted to the public.

It was suggested (not required) by Council members that we tape record future meetings. This tape should also be available to any one who requests it. Mr. McMahon asked about posting the meeting notes on the website immediately or should we wait until they are approved. Mr. Shroufe suggested we wait until approval and have the tape available to the public should they request it. Mr. McMahon suggested the working group information is a valuable tool and should be posted on the web page. Key thing to remember is to allow the public to attend and listen even though they cannot participate.

Review of State Agency Information Collection

Mr. McMahon passed out the State Agency zoomerang survey results. Six agencies responded. These surveys contain two working documents. One is the individual agency response and the other is broken down per question answered by each agency. It was discussed that these surveys are a useful tool to identify gaps and see existing mechanisms in state government. Information collected will be compiled onto a spreadsheet and distributed to each working group. Mr. Riley asked for thoughts and observations on this. One response was regarding statutory authorities on invasive species. The term “invasive species” is not used but relates to invasive species. Questions asked by Council: Can we identify specific coverage or gaps in areas? Where do the agencies fit? What is the nature of the agency? Tighten up coordination on different authorities. This will be worked through by the Leadership and Coordination Work Group.

Updates from Working Groups

Research and Information

Jeff Lovich acknowledged who was in attendance. He also passed out a handout and noted that guest contributors were from the Department of Agriculture and APHIS. Dr. Lovich talked about key dates for this working document. The first Draft was from December 15 and identified issues, status and recommended action. At the February 24th Council meeting, this working group asked for comments by February 6th and to date, none were received. Still more work needed. The working group will have a cleaner draft by next meeting.

This draft document was asking for more coordination between agencies, states, Mexico, and private landowners and proposing a new Arizona Center for Invasive Species. Emphasis on building technical transfers, good communication, and use the good model of the current Arizona Heritage Data Management System (HDMS). They NEED comments & feedback from the other working groups. Would like feedback on details from handout such as: Detail-Too much? Too vague? Need guidance.

Dr. Lovich went over some changes to the outline. For example, see page 5. Arizona’s Heritage Data Management System-flush out-need more ideas on funding. Are there grants to apply for? Comment from Mr. Werner: State tools on invasive species at different levels and elements at those levels. Funding is a limitation! It doesn’t put you out of business if no funding is received. Need to look at what is available and levels of recommendation

Director Shroufe reiterated that the group needs to stay focused on what is expected from Governor and what is asked in the Executed Order (EO). Time is limited and we need to respond by June. He

wants the work groups to go to refer to the Executive Order and make sure that all items are covered in EO. We are on a TIME CRUNCH!

Comment from Mike McCauley (?) on an up and running program in conservation and to note that mapping has already been done in New Mexico.

Mr. Riley noted that HDMS tracks individual elements-site locale rather than broader distribution of plants and animals. Priority species-not common species-locality of new arrivals with targeted responses. Mr. Riley then asked about the Center of Invasive Species and the vision. Very little detail available. Will it be University based or follow other states models?

It was suggested that we take a look at Arizona Water Protection fund. Can we model after that? Look at BLM and USFS. How can we melt with existing programs and their resources? Federal programs are a big deal. Can we draw from Federal funds? Bring coordination together to work synergistically. Example: Colorado River problem-Issue with tribes, private ranchers, and Feds. Very difficult because of the different funding sources. You can treat one side of the river but what about the other side? Need to develop coordinated approaches. There are many federal grants available and trying to match them may be difficult.

Director Shroufe reminded the Council to respond only to what is in the Executive Order, so it fits well into the response for the governor.

Leadership and Coordination

Patti Fenner introduced the members of this working group. This group has met once. They developed a survey, not polled yet, and added more questions. Mr. McMahon has the survey, which is being refined, and will be emailed out hopefully by March 3rd. Ms. Fenner noted that they might need help with the responses when they come in. This working group will be meeting again on March 17th and hope to have some results from the survey back.

For next Meeting AGENDA: The definition of “Invasive Species” needs to be discussed. A handout was passed out showing the different definitions of invasive species from other agencies. Reminder from Director Shroufe on “Time” is a limiting factor. They would like to publish a list of who is getting the questionnaire in excel format. Right now it's just the email addresses and names. Question asked about a difference of opinion in the group. Is the definition to include both native and non-native species?

ACTION ITEM: Discuss the definition of Invasive Species...this is critical!

Right now, the council has the adopted the federal Executive Order definition as our working definition. There was discussion on indigenous species and that a lot of money is being spent right now on this subject. Key fact is that it will be very difficult to develop a definition of “Invasive Species” that everyone can accept. Mr. Riley noted the economic and social value of some non-native species. Take a look at what is expected from the Governor and the Executive Order definition. It is suggested to email everyone asking his or her thoughts on the definition.

Anticipation and Outreach

Jodi Latimer passed out handouts. #1 was adopted from Research and Information Management Working Group. Charter of Anticipation has fallen short so far. Not included were prevention, risk assessment, and internet sales. March 14th is the next meeting of this working group at the State Land

Department. They will review what other states and organizations have going on that is working for them. #2 is information management and strong outreach, need to find the right vehicle, icon driven. Need a professional marketing firm to let the general public know. Maybe develop a “symbol” to identify certain plants at nurseries, for example. Page 3 of outline, working group feels confident on flushing out the information needed from the outline. Ms. Latimer asked for comments on overlapping on anticipation – please email inputs or give physical suggestions. It was suggested that the target audience is an essential tool. Need to target specific message to special audience and tailor those needs.

Control and Management

Handouts were passed out by Mr. Werner. They are working on flushing out info and completion of their current outline. A surface management map was handed out. Need to look at what the Native American Communities, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service are doing. Query them? Look at land management responses. We need to coordinate federal priorities with State priorities. Look at plans the land management agencies have. May have some planning done already. Example: Arizona strip and active control issues. Work thru analysis, barriers, gaps, and lack of funding. Must have goals and objectives of the charter and work through these. Information gathered on assessing - Park Service has this. Look at existing work. Look at or construct a good map of Weed Management Areas. Question is how to evaluate a Weed Management Area and what about funding? Ms. Fenner asked, “What does it take to be a Weed Management Area (WMA)? Title 48 establishes weed districts, which is not commonly used (used once on a flying insect). Organizational structure appears to be to seek grants funding and then achieve specific objectives. No defined MOU’s. All agencies are covered under MOU’s.

Director Shroufe had two comments. These are important recommendations and there is lots going on. We need to have a central clearinghouse and this information must make sense. Money is being lost because of lack of coordination. Too many gaps.

Mike Macauley commented that New Mexico is light years ahead of us (they have protected funding).

Mr. Riley: Need to identify of barriers to control, management, and our response tools.

Chemical treatment? Need to streamline an approach with further discussion on this. Bureau of Land Management has used this before, but it can be problematic. Further talk about these issues and approaches is needed. New Mexico is using a GIS helicopter to spray insecticide. Good target, but there is much controversy concerning using any type of herbicides, pesticides, and other “...icides”.

Discussion amongst various members of Council - Compliance related activities on Federal lands. Control mode? Has to be balanced for public interest. A reachable goal could be seeding native species along highways. Feds do some of this now. Agencies have looked at this but when getting rid of something, what is going to take its place? Seed can also be tough to obtain. Restoration requirements and implementation is on scope, flow and processes. Will be working with Research and Info Mgmt. Working Group on this. Have not flushed out greater detail yet.

Items of Interest

Mr. McMahon asked questions concerning the Webpage-Anything to add? Anything you find relevant? Please get back to Mr. McMahon on adding anything or any comments

What is the direct address? Not easy to find on Governors page, it takes you right to the Executive Order. Tom will check into this "missing link". Purpose of the website? Is for internal or external use? What is the councils wish? What are the goals and can they used to gather public support? As it evolves we can build from another location. Director Shroufe: CAUTION! June deadline.

New Business

Organizing ourselves so next meeting we show considerable progress. Are there specific barriers to flush out for further development? If you need writing assistance, let Mr. Riley know.

Director Shroufe complimented the whole Council on the work being done so far. We are dedicated and out of the goodness of your hearts you want to see it succeed. Call if you need any help. Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Department of Agriculture are here to facilitate your needs. Bottom line: REPORT GETS DONE AND TURNED IN ON TIME!

Call to the Public

Dave Madison from the Department of Agriculture (Quarantine Program Manager). Going back to the survey, the first item that popped out was the statutory authority to deal with weed problem lies within the Department of Agriculture. This is important to the Council. The Department of Agriculture has to be at the center. They can cross jurisdictional lines because they have the regulatory authority. Cannot do anything within the Indian reservations, but can work with them. There are strict weed statutes (noxious weed definition). It is a broad definition which may include any form of vegetation.

Jim Maynard from Arizona Cattle Growers Association asked that if the meetings are small enough, could the public participate during the session? He feels that there is a current structure in place to deal with noxious weeds and it seems redundant to create another state agency from this Council.

Ms. Fenner noted that it was great creating this Council and the 27 representatives from the state and feds, but we need to get a better participation from other agencies and tribes. What about Arizona Department of Health representative? Apparently the size of the council was to be larger but was condensed. Mr. Riley will extend an invitation to the Department of Health for next meeting.

Next Meeting

ACTION ITEM - Need to discuss the definition! Look at all aspects of definition and bring to closure. Come up with any thoughts.

New Mexico may be giving a presentation on what they have done concerning invasives. This may fit in better at the Working Group meetings. Take a look at what New Mexico is doing and also look at the number of different models in different states. Working groups to look and see what is best for Arizona. Conservation districts - How do they fit into this? How can we implement them better into this state? Anyone willing to pay to have NM come here? It was suggested to wait until after June 2006 for this. Get the report turned in first.

GOALS

- 1) Final Report to Governor on time
- 2) Plan for the future-expand knowledge.

- 3) Look at detail from surveys and the things that jump out
- 4) Definition
- 5) Feedback (need to flush more things out) from outlines
- 6) Work on outline for report to Governor...need to fill in the blanks
- 7) Game and Fish and Dept. of Ag - work on big outline and working groups will fill in. Good way to stay focused!

ACTION ITEM - Introduction and Outline of final report to Governor for next Council meeting.

- 8) Request- Take in consideration about duplication in committees.
- 9) Take a look at the Clean Colorado River Alliance report, which was just submitted to the Governor's office.

Dr. Brock will rejoin next meeting. Get a report from his trip

Next meetings and times:

3/29 (Wed) Roadrunner room at Arizona Game and Fish Department office in Phoenix. 11am to 4pm...may go longer. Working Lunch. Mr. Riley to take care of. 4/20 Downtown-no time yet
Future dates? Everyone is to bring at least 2-3 dates to share with at the next meeting or email Mr. McMahon.

Adjourned at 3:45pm